

Specification

Please replace the Cross Reference paragraph at page 1, line 1 with the following paragraph:

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/176,100, filed on June 19, 2002; which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/695,712, filed on October 23, 2000[[]], now U.S. Patent No. 6,446,964[[]]; which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/351,408 filed on July 9, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,244,595[[]]; which ~~[[was]]~~is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/995,649, filed on December 22, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,967,514[[]]; which is a continuation of U.S. Application 08/428,524, filed on April 21, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,700,007[[]]; which is a continuation of U.S. patent Application No. 08/176,862, ~~[[fied]]~~filed on January 3, 1994, now U.S. Patent 5,409,225[[]]; which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 07/956,057, filed on October 2, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,292,127.

Please replace the Field of the Invention paragraph at page 1, line 14 with the following paragraph:

This invention relates to ~~games normally played in an arcade environment, and more particularly to such games played by directing a playing piece towards a target and seeing the results of game play displayed on a rotatable~~ indicators and more particularly to mechanical indicators used in game systems.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 2, with the following paragraph:

The present invention provides an apparatus and method ~~for progressively scoring contributions from multiple individual game units, and also provides an apparatus and method~~

~~for an individual roll-down game~~ including a spinning wheel indicator. ~~These improvements add~~
This improvement adds excitement and complexity to the game, which tends to prolong player involvement.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 8, which starts with "The multi-station game apparatus includes two or more individual units of a game of skill connected to a progressive scoring apparatus."

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 18, which starts with "A roll-down game unit of the present invention includes a ramp, targets at the end of the ramp, and a wheel associated with the targets."

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 26, with the following paragraph:

In an exemplary embodiment, a ~~The~~ score of the game is ~~based upon~~ related to the wheel's position. If the wheel is rotated and stops at a number displayed on the wheel, the score might ~~increase~~ also be increased by that number. The wheel might display a "Bankrupt" position, which ~~would~~ might reduce the score to zero. A further variation of the game would include an award dispenser, which would dispense ~~a non-monetary~~ an award based upon the final score once the game was over.

Please add the following new paragraphs before the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 33, which starts with "The wheel adds complexity":

In another exemplary embodiment, an electromechanical indicator includes a rotary body having an axis of rotation. The rotary body is provided with a number of segments radiating from the axis of rotation which are associated with at least two different indicia. A motor is coupled to the rotary body such that the rotary body is adapted for a rotating mode and a stationary mode about the axis of rotation. A pointer associated with the rotary body is adapted

to point to a predetermined segment of the number of segments when the rotary body is in the stationary mode. A segment detector detects a rotary position of each of the number of segments. In operation, the motor rotates the rotary body to point the pointer to the predetermined segment (e.g., a segment which is determined at some point in time before the rotary body enters a stationary mode).

In certain embodiments, the rotary body is in the form of a wheel. In other embodiments, the motor is a stepper motor which is controlled by a stepper motor controller. In some embodiments, the predetermined sector is randomly chosen. In certain embodiments, the number of segments are all of the segments of the rotary body.

In another exemplary embodiment, an electromechanical indicator includes a rotary body having an axis of rotation and which is provided with a number of segments radiating from the axis of rotation, wherein the segments are associated with at least two different indicia. A motor is coupled to the rotary body such that the rotary body is adapted for a rotating mode and a stationary mode about the axis of rotation. A pointer associated with the rotary body is adapted to point to a predetermined segment of the number of segments when the rotary body is in the stationary mode. A segment detector is provided for detecting a rotary position of each of the number of segments and a controller is coupled to the segment detector and the motor for controlling the rotating mode and the stationary mode.

In another exemplary embodiment, an indicator system includes: an indicator having an axis of rotation and defining a major surface, the indicator being provided with a number of segments associated with the major surface and radiating from the axis of rotation, wherein the number of segments are associated with at least two different indicia. The system further includes a stepper motor for selectively providing rotary motion to the indicator to provide a rotating mode and a stationary mode with respect to the axis of rotation, an optical position sensor associated with the indicator to determine a position of each of the number of segments and a pointer associated with the indicator to point to a predetermined segment of the number of segments when the indicator is in the stationary mode.

In certain embodiments, the indicator is substantially a circular disk, wherein the major surface is a first major surface and wherein, the circular disk further has a second major surface

substantially parallel to the first major surface. In certain embodiments, the number of segments are provided on the first major surface. In certain embodiments, control circuitry is coupled, directly or indirectly, to the stepper motor and the optical position sensor. In certain embodiments, the control circuitry includes a microprocessor. In certain embodiments, an output signal of the optical position sensor can provide segment position information to the control circuitry. In certain embodiments, the number of segments are all of the segments of the rotary body.

Another exemplary embodiment for an indicator includes rotary indicator means provided with a number of segments radiating from an axis of rotation, motor means for rotating the rotary indicator means around the axis of rotation; segment position detection means for detecting each segment of the number of segments; and controller means coupled to the motor means and the segment position detection means for selectively rotating the rotary indicator means and stopping the rotary indicator means on a predetermined segment of the rotary indicator means.

A still further exemplary embodiment for a method for indicating a predetermined result includes rotating an indicator around an axis of rotation with a motor, the indicator being provided with a number of segments radiating from the axis of rotation, detecting a number of rotary positions of the indicator during a rotation of the indicator; and stopping the rotation of the indicator with the motor at a selected segment to indicate a predetermined result indicated by the selected segment. In certain embodiments, the number of segments are all of the segments of the rotary body.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 33, with the following paragraph:

The wheel adds complexity and interest to an otherwise simple ~~roll-down~~ game. This again increases player involvement with the game and increases the revenue produced by the game.